

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The present leave policy for Soviet army officers is one annual leave of 45 days, plus travel time. Jet pilots are allowed one annual leave of 60 days, plus travel time. I do not know the amount of travel time allowed. I learned this information in conversation with army officers, other soldiers, and also because a major I knew went to the USSR on leave for this length of time in the summer of 1951. I learned about the leave time for jet pilots by talking to friends who were stationed at the airfield in Oranienburg where jets and bombers were stationed.
2. NCOs may receive from 10 to 20 days leave annually, plus a period of travel time left to the discretion of the commanding officer.
3. Enlisted men are not authorized any leave time, nor are they permitted to leave the compound or military area except on orders, and then only when accompanied by an officer; however, a unit commander has the power to reward an enlisted man with a 15-day leave to the USSR. Enlisted men may receive leave for one of the following reasons:

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- (a) Attaining the classification of marksman. (I am not certain of the minimum number of points needed, but a soldier was considered an expert gunner if he could hit all five targets /Bullseye, prone, kneeling, standing, and crouching silhouettes/.)
- (b) Exemplary conduct, discipline, neatness, and all-round outstanding soldiership.
- (c) Outstanding marks in political indoctrination.

In the case of illness or death in his immediate family, an enlisted man may receive 15 days leave. This leave must be approved by various channels in the Soviet Zone and the USSR, and usually is approved from one to two months after the emergency. I have no knowledge of any recent changes in the leave system and know of no complaints about the system.

4. No EM dared to express dissatisfaction with the leave system to their superiors; neither did they voice personal dissatisfaction among themselves for fear of being denounced as enemies and traitors.
5. Only colonels and generals are permitted to have dependents in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

6.

7. Although EM never voiced their usual complaints to officers, in conversations among themselves they did express dissatisfaction with the bad news from their families, who wrote that there was insufficient food at home. Almost all letters were censored and the offensive lines blacked out. Even though the EM could not decipher the censored phrases, they felt that in those lines their families complained about their plight. Nevertheless, I know of no specific examples of low morale with the exception of the case of [redacted] (During the year I was in the Soviet Zone of Germany, however, I heard of four different instances of suicide /all EM/ in Pasewalk and Neustrelitz).

8.

[redacted] utilized every chance to fraternize. While on garrison duty, approximately 20% of the EM found devious means to leave their posts and fraternize. Also, a great number of officers and EM drank, indicating poor discipline. However, aside from drunkenness and fraternization, I know of no other cases of disobedience of orders, or other incidents.

9. In summer 1950 GOFG published an order prohibiting all troops from drinking beer and strong liquor. Another measure was to dismiss, in September 1951, all German employees [redacted] fraternized with a salesgirl [redacted] who was permitted to remain in the compound until 2200 hours. On 1 Sep 51 she was dismissed and replaced by a Soviet girl.

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10. I was in regular units for only a short period of time; however I never saw anyone in these units returned to the USSR for any cause, before normal expiration of their tour of duty.
11. In my opinion, soldiers do not resent officers' privileges, such as more pay, better recreation, food, etc, since they may remain as Sverkhstrochniki (reenlistees) and receive all such advantages (additional pay, leave and PX facilities).
12. All privates with six years of schooling are encouraged to go to NCO school and become officers; however, they must then serve all their lives. Therefore, there is neither resentment of officer privileges or promotion policy of EM.

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